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SUBJECT: FEBRUARY 28 TAO PRESS BRIEFING: 2/28 INCIDENT,
TAO ECONOMIC VISIT TO TAIWAN, KMT-CCP EXCHANGES, CHARTER
FLIGHTS, OLYMPIC TORCH ROUTE

Summary

11. Key points at the February 28 Taiwan Affairs Office
(TAO) press briefing were:

-- The TAO views the "2/28 incident" - of 1947 as a
day in which Taiwan compatriots resisted the KMT in an
act of patriotism and democracy and hopes memorial
activities will not promote "Taiwan independence."

-- TAO Economic Director He Shizhong will travel to
Taiwan, though the dates were not confirmed.

-- China hopes that KMT-CCP exchanges will continue in
2007, commented the spokesperson when asked about
recent remarks by a KMT legislator.

-- Holiday charter flights were successful as have
been other means of cross-Straits exchange in areas of
agriculture, trade and culture.

-- The route of the Olympic torch for the 2008
Olympics will be released in April. End Summary.

"2/28" Memorial Activities Promoting Independence?

12. Taiwan Affairs Office (TAO) spokesman Li Weiwei held
at the February 28 press conference that the Mainland
has always viewed the "2/28 incident" of 1947 as a day
on which Taiwan compatriots resisted the KMT in an act
of patriotism and democracy, when asked for comment on
planned memorial activities which some view as
promoting "Taiwan independence." Li warned that using
the day's events to push for "Taiwan independence"
would bring harm to the people of Taiwan and expressed
hope that all Taiwan compatriots will continue to work
toward increasing exchanges and development of cross-
Straits relations.

TAO Official to Visit Taiwan

13. TAO Economic Director He Shizhong will travel to
Taiwan to further cross-Straits exchanges, confirmed
Li, though not specifying Director He's dates of
travel.

Fervent Opposition to "De Jure Taiwan Independence"

14. Li reiterated the Mainland's fervent opposition to
Taiwan's "name revisions" and other behavior promoting
"de jure independence," in response to a question as
to why the TAO continued to label 2007 a "key year" in
cross-Straits relations.

Anniversary of Anti-Secession Law

¶15. Asked by a Beijing news reporter if there were any activities planned during this year's National People's Congress session (which begins on March 5) to mark the two-year anniversary of the Anti-Secession Law, Li said there were none as far as he knew.

KMT-CCP Exchange

¶16. Asked for a reaction to comments by a KMT legislator that April would be an important time for cross-Straits relations, Li spoke of the successful trade and culture forum resulting from last year's KMT-CCP meetings and expressed hope that such cooperation will continue this year.

Holiday Charter Flights, Successful, Hope for More

¶17. From January 13-February 26, there were ninety-six direct charter flights between the Mainland and Taiwan, 97 percent of which were on Xiamen Airlines. Many Taiwan friends and business people expressed dissatisfaction that there were not more flights and cities involved, and the TAO hopes both sides can increase efforts in this respect.

¶18. Reporting on the progress of Mainland-Taiwan tourism negotiations, Li stated that private organizations have held four consultations and made

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some progress. As soon as the two sides reach a consensus, Mainlanders will be able to travel to Taiwan, said Li.

Olympic Torch Route to be Announced in April

¶19. Li announced that the route of the Olympic torch, specifically whether or not it will pass through Taiwan, will be released in April. Li gave no news regarding the attendance of Taiwan businesspeople at next month's "two conferences" in Beijing, nor did he have information on the effect of China's recent stock market plunge on Taiwan's economy.

RANDT